



# DESIGNBOARD


CLADDING GUIDE




Classic Amber Cladding




Classic Charcoal Cladding




Classic Cinnamon Cladding




Classic Greenwich Cladding



Classic Luna Cladding




Classic Mocha Cladding



Classic Polar Cladding



Classic Silver Cladding



Classic Traditional Cladding

# Product Guide Introduction

---

The perfect combination of nature and technology, DesignBoard cladding is a brand new range of exterior cladding that combines all the attractive qualities of timber with the reliability and low maintenance of composite. DesignBoard cladding is available in a range of nine colours with a lightly grooved and brushed surface finish for a stylish and contemporary look.

This guide has been designed to provide you with the information needed, including tools required and some ‘top tips’ to ensure a seamless cladding installation.

Please note that this guide is intended for installing DesignBoard cladding in a domestic setting only and is NOT suitable for commercial applications. For further information or for commercial installation advice please contact: [info@designboard.uk.com](mailto:info@designboard.uk.com)

The Tools You Need	04
Installation Top Tips	05
Installation — Cladding Posts	06
If a Capping is Required	07
If a Fascia is Required	08
Placement Of The Cladding	09
Cladding Around Corners	15
Cleaning and Maintenance	16
Frequently Asked Questions	17
Technical Information	19

# The Tools You Need

---

DesignBoard Composite Cladding is straightforward to install and requires similar tools to those used in constructing timber cladding.

## Tools List

- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Long spirit level
- Bench mounted drop saw fitted with a TCT blade suitable for aluminium
- Battery Drill with spare battery
- Metal drill bits
- Countersink (suitable for aluminium)
- Set square
- Plastic spacers
- Dust mask
- Eye protection
- Ear protection
- Extension cable
- Gloves
- Metal file

# Installation Top Tips

---

Always leave a minimum 5mm expansion gap at the end of all boards. This includes where two boards meet and where two fascia boards meet.

No edge or end should be touching any other surface. This allows for possible expansion and contraction due to varying temperature and possible flexing of the frame.

The length (long edge) of DesignBoard Cladding will expand in heat and contract in colder temperatures. The width (short edge) will not expand or contract.

Prior to the installation of DesignBoard Cladding, we recommend that boards are stored in a cool/shaded area for 24 – 48 hours to allow the boards to be at their normal size during installation. A garage or well-shaded area is an ideal place to store the boards prior to beginning the installation process.

Before cutting cladding to length - We advise checking each end of the cladding sections prior to cutting. If there are any small chips or defects, simply trim 4 – 10mm from the end to create a more precise finish. Due to the manufacturing process of DesignBoard, the ends of some of the boards may have small chips. Although not considered a defect, taking time to even the ends of the boards prior to cutting will improve the overall finish of the installation.

Due to DesignBoard Cladding being manufactured from 50% natural fibres there will be an element of colour variation. We advise to mix the boards on site prior to installation to spread any possible variation throughout the project and give a more natural appearance.

# Installation — Cladding Posts

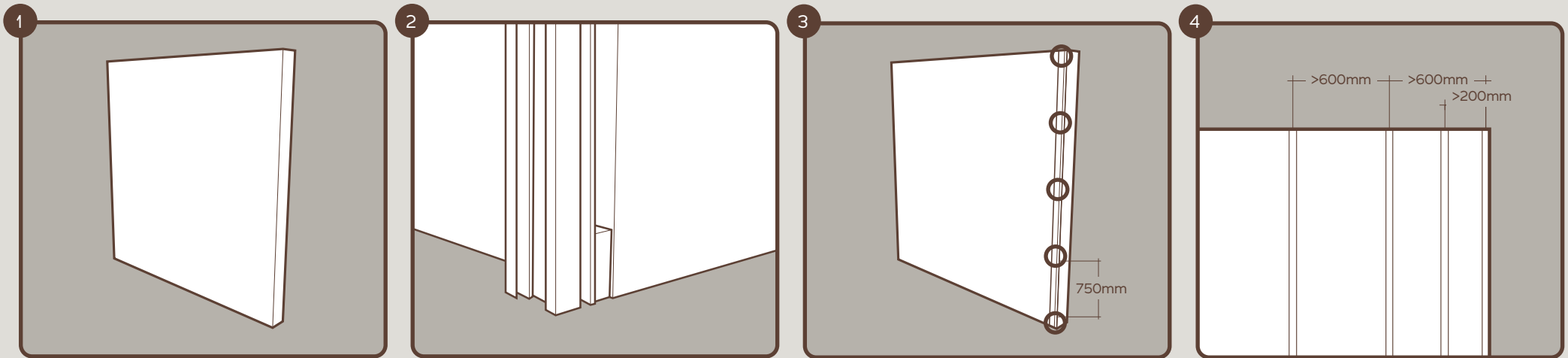
The substrate must be stable enough to allow and guarantee the fastening of the wall fixings. The surface must also be level since the posts are placed directly onto it (see illustration 1).

If the mounting surface is not level, packers may be used. These packers must be suitable for outdoor use and the installer must ensure that they are not detachable (see illustration 2).

The posts are fixed to the substrate by frame fixings of at least 6mm diameter. The screws must be made of stainless steel.

The screw must enter at least 50mm into the substrate. This guarantees the correct hold when the plug/fixing expands. The maximum spacing of the screws that hold the rail to the wall must be no more than 750mm. A 3m long strip should be fixed by at least 5 equidistant points (see illustration 3).

The spacing between posts should not exceed 600 mm and at the ends, between the first and second posts an intermediate post should be installed 200mm from the first post (see illustration 4).



# If A Capping Is Required At The Top Of The Installation

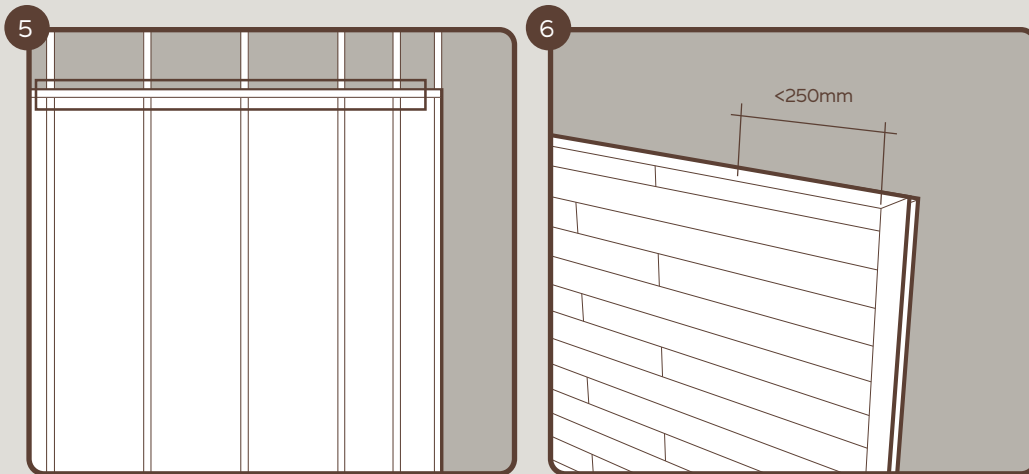
---

It is important to consider if a capping or fascia will be required at the top or side of the cladding before starting. If either are required, please read the below section.

At the top of the installation, cladding posts should be placed horizontally between the vertical posts. This provides the fixing of a fascia/capping on top if required.

Note: - The horizontal posts may need to be installed 5 – 10mm higher than the top of the vertical posts to allow a gap of 5mm between the top length of cladding and the capping (**see illustration 5**).

These horizontal posts can be screwed to the substrate in the same way as vertical posts. It can sometimes be easier to install the horizontal posts once the final piece of cladding has been cut to size. They can then be offered up to establish the final installation position allowing for a 5mm gap between the capping and the top length of cladding. Alternatively, you can use exterior packers or offcuts of the 10mm thick fascia itself to elevate the capping from the Cladding. If raising the capping it must be supported every 250mm to avoid possible bowing from high temperatures (**see illustration 6**).

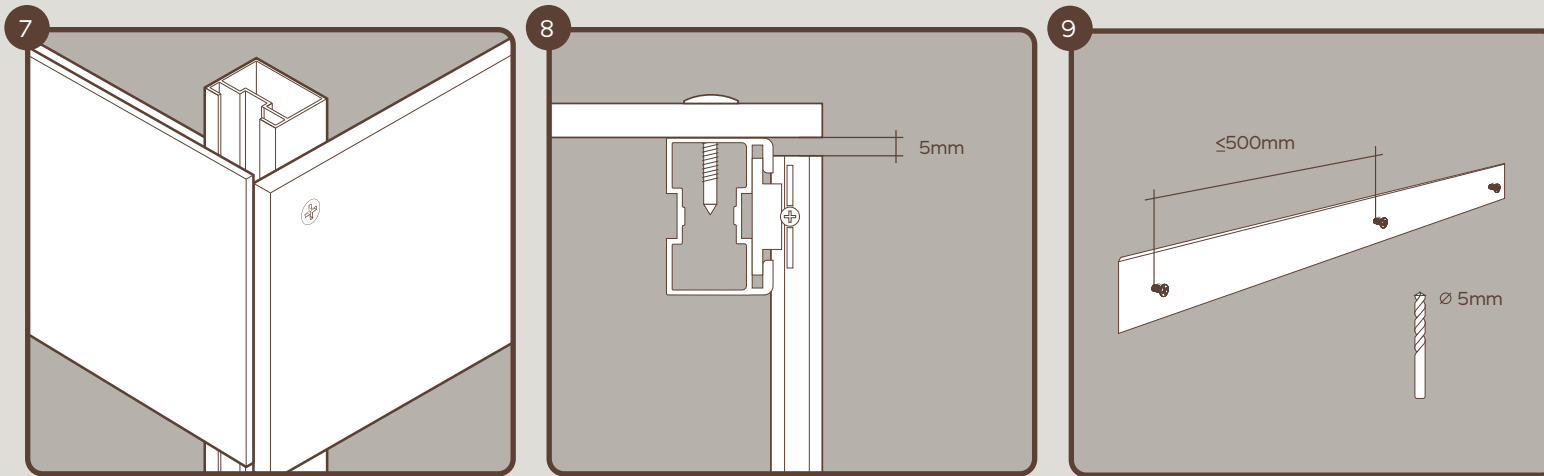


# If A Fascia Is Required At The Side Of The Installation

This can be fixed directly to the final vertical post using the colour coded fascia screw (see illustration 7).

Ensure when cutting your cladding to length that you allow a 5mm gap between the fascia and cladding end (see illustration 8).

To use this screw, a 5mm hole must be drilled beforehand in the capping/fascia. The screws are self-tapping and drilling so there is no need to pre-drill the post. The maximum distance between screws will be 500mm. (see illustration 9).



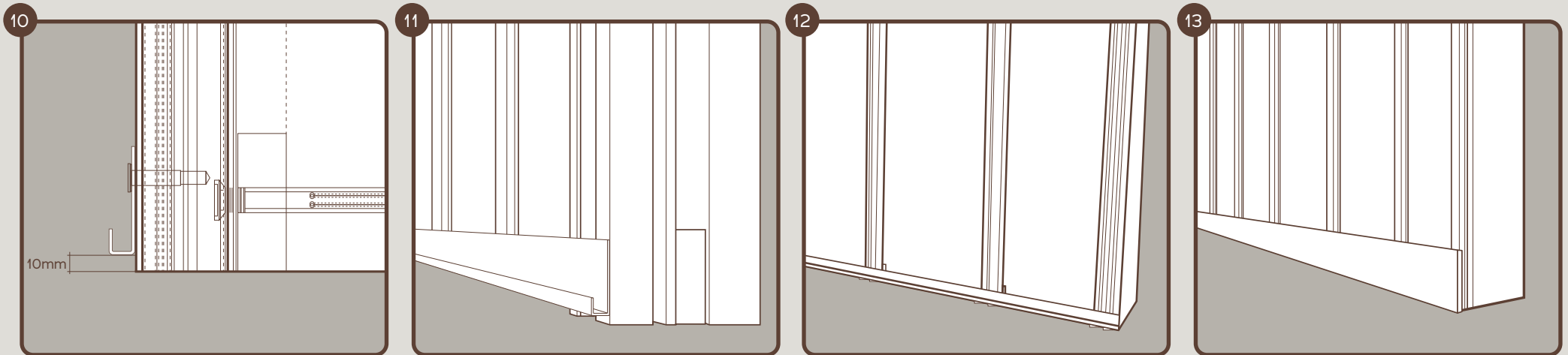


# Placement Of The Cladding #1

---

Installation of the cladding can begin once the posts are in place. The first step is to install the start profile. The start profile can be fixed to the posts with 'Screw A'. The start profile will need to be predrilled and counter sunk once the position of the fixing points have been determined, it should be placed 10mm from the bottom end of the posts/ground (see illustrations 10, 11, & 12).

Once the start profile is fixed, the first cladding panel can be slotted onto the start profile (see illustration 13).

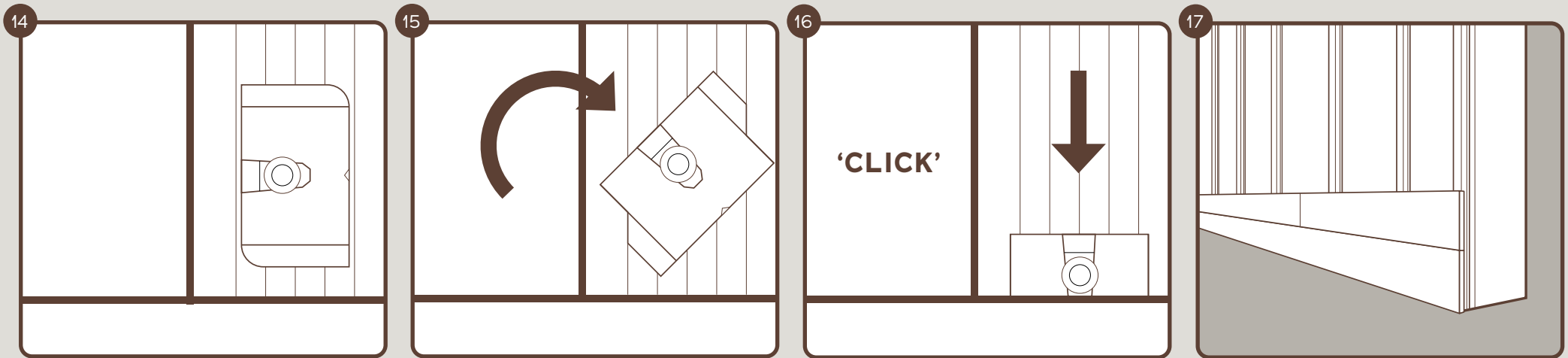


# Placement Of The Cladding #2

The top of the first board is fixed using the cladding clip. Each clip is inserted into the groove/channel of the post using a simple 'twist and slide' action into the profiled edge of the DesignBoard Cladding until you hear a click (see illustrations 14, 15, & 16).

Note: - The clip is provided with a hole to house a screw, however, it will not be necessary to use a screw on all clips, more details are provided in the next section of the instructions. This considerably reduces the time it takes to assemble this product.

Place a clip for each of the posts installed. The clips will hold the upper part of the first row of cladding and the bottom of the second. On the second row of our example we have positioned a joint in the centre of the length (see illustration 17).



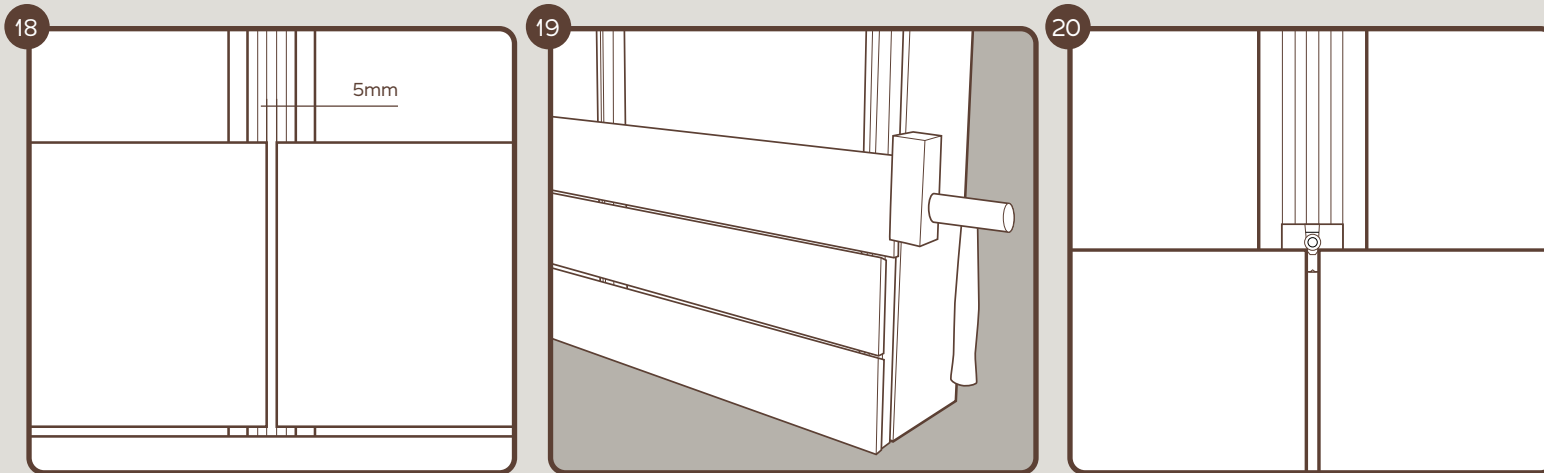
# Placement Of The Cladding #3

---

When joining two lengths you must ensure there is a 5mm gap between the boards and they are central to the post. The two lengths will share the same clip for fixing (see illustration 18).

If when fixing the cladding, you need to adjust the position then do not use a hammer or mallet to hit the end of cladding directly. Instead, place a block of timber at the end of the length and tap with a rubber/nylon mallet until you achieve the desired position (see illustration 19).

The 5 mm joint between boards should be centered with the hole in the clip. This is to ensure that the corners of each of the lengths are perfectly anchored by the clip. It reduces the risk of grip being lost through expansion and contraction due to varying temperatures experienced by the cladding (see illustration 20).



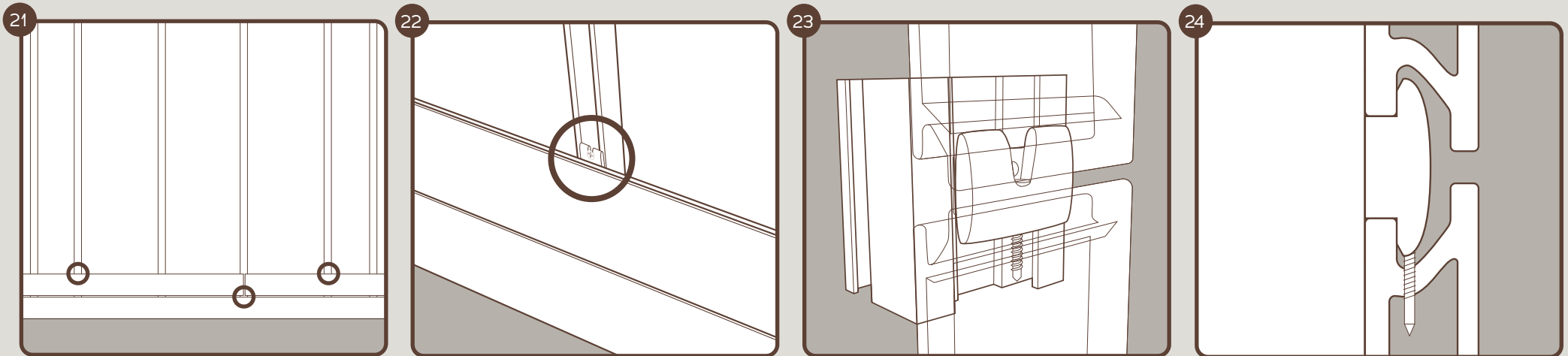
# Placement Of The Cladding #4

As a precaution, fix the boards as close to the centre of each length as possible. Our example indicates where to fix in order to hold the three lengths in this example (see illustration 21).

Screw B is used to perform this operation. Place it in the vertical screw housing provided at the top of the clip and screw it into the board. The screws should be screwed directly into the side of the cladding profile (see illustrations 22, 23 & 24).

This ensures that the boards overall position will remain the same whilst allowing the actual boards to expand and contract.

As indicated above, this fastening must be done in the clip most aligned to the centre as possible, and in all the individual boards of the installation, regardless of their length. It is advisable that each board be supported by at least 3 rails.

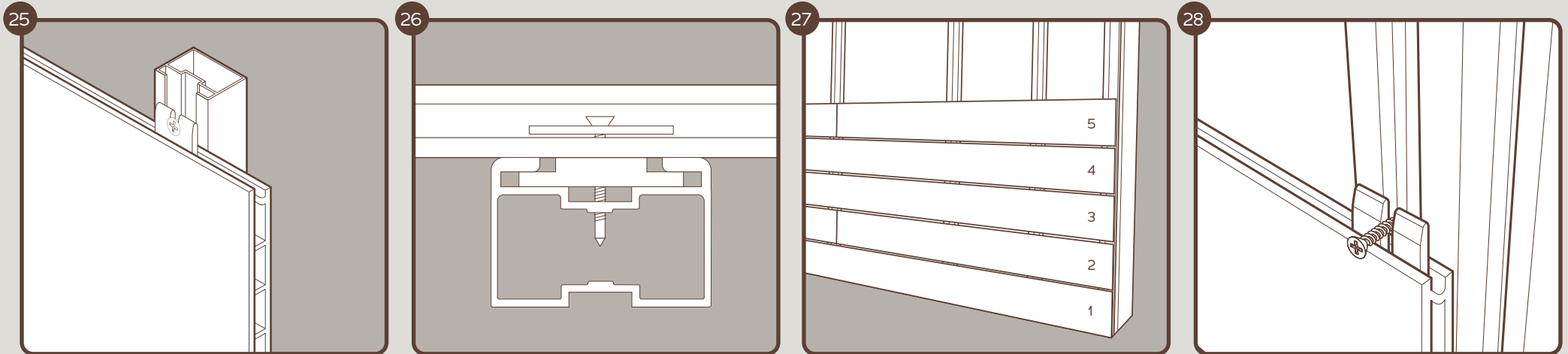


# Placement Of The Cladding #5

Continue placing the rows of cladding using the procedure outlined on the previous pages. Once 5 rows of cladding have been completed all clips are to be screwed in place using Screw A, using the horizontal housing at the front of the clip. Repeat every 5 rows (see illustrations 25 & 26).

It is only necessary to screw clips to the posts on every fifth row of cladding installed. e.g. in an installation of 23 rows of cladding, it will only be necessary to fix the clips to the posts on rows 5, 10, 15 and 20) (see illustration 27).

Continue placing the cladding in the desired lengths to complete the remaining rows until finished (see illustration 28).



# Placement Of The Cladding #6

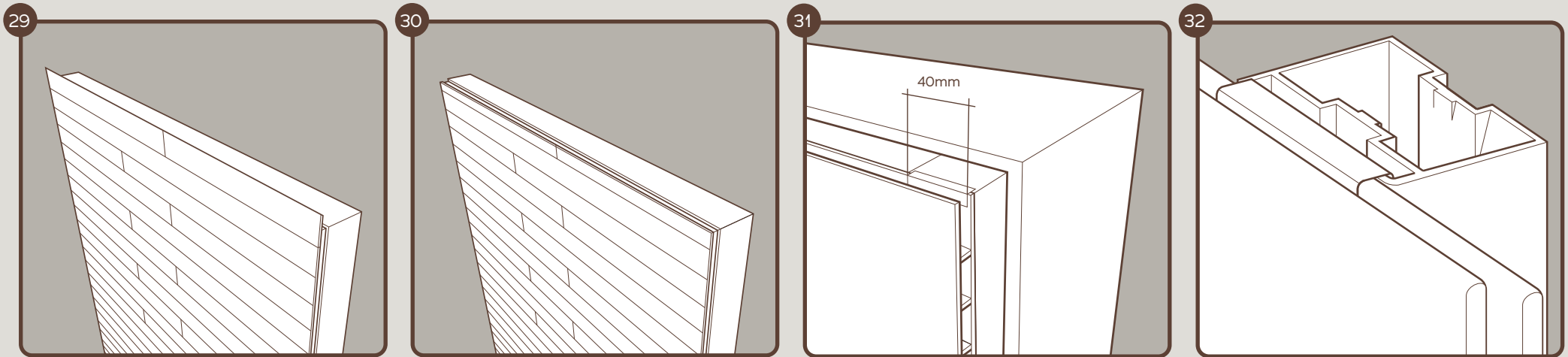
It is unlikely that the lengths of DesignBoard Cladding supplied as standard will fit your requirements, so you should expect to have to cut the lengths to suit. DesignBoard Cladding can be cut both length ways and width ways providing you with flexibility. The last row in our example is larger than required and will require cutting to size (see illustration 29).

Once the last row of the installation has been cut, it should be the same height and width as the vertical posts it is attached to (see illustration 30).

The last row of cut cladding is fixed onto the posts by placing the uncut edge onto the clips in the same way as all previous rows. The upper (cut) part of the profile can be fixed using sections of the start profile. To do this, cut the Start Profile into 40mm pieces and fix onto every post (see illustration 31).

The Start Profile is positioned by slotting its longest edge inside the vertical post (see illustration 32).

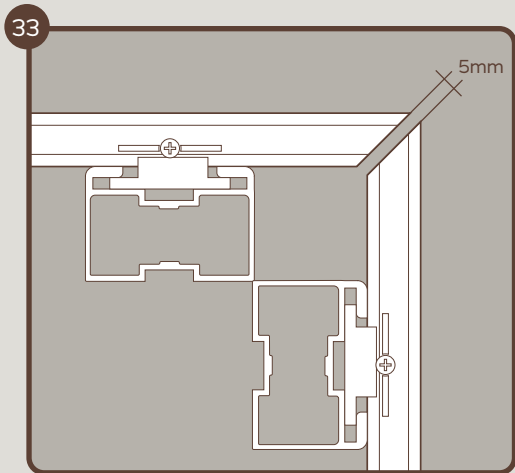
A small amount of exterior mastic can be placed in the profile of the clip before fitting over the cladding profile – this will prevent any slight movement of the top length of cladding.



# Cladding Around Corners

---

If it is required to return the boards around a corner, then a mitred corner will be required. Ensure a 5mm gap is left between the board ends to allow for possible expansion and contraction (**see illustration 33**).



# Cleaning and Maintenance

---

Although DesignBoard Cladding is virtually maintenance free, it does still require cleaning from time to time to keep it looking at its best.

Areas of cladding lower to the ground and surrounding planting areas for example may experience some splash back from adjacent surfaces.

There is nothing special in the way DesignBoard Cladding should be cleaned and the use of a soft brush and a hose or alternatively a jet wash will remove most marks and dirt.

## Cleaning Methods – for general maintenance

### Using a jet wash on DesignBoard

Using a regular fan spray attachment, clean in the same direction as the grooves on the cladding surface, avoiding circular movements. Hold the jet wash lance at an angle of 45 degrees at least 300mm from the surface of the cladding. Please Note - Do not use heated jet washers on DesignBoard cladding.

### Using a brush and soapy water

The best results for this should be carried out in cool shaded conditions to reduce evaporation and allow the soapy water to break down any dirt. Apply the soapy water onto the cladding and leave the solution to work for 3 – 5 minutes, but do not allow to dry. Then agitate with a soft brush in the same direction as the grooves on the cladding. Then thoroughly rinse with a hose and allow to dry.

## Cleaning Methods – for more specific marks

### Grease stains, sun cream, oil, etc...

We recommend cleaning any grease, fat or oil as soon as possible. Remove the excess by dabbing with a dry cloth being sure not to spread the mark further. Then use washing up liquid diluted with warm water and scrub the area in the direction of the grooves on the decking with a soft brush and rinse with clean water. If the mark remains repeat the process. If grease, oil or fats are not removed using the above method please use – Lithofin Oil-Ex. Although this product is designed to be used on stone it works adequately on DesignBoard following the manufacturer's instructions – apply a 2 - 3mm layer over the oil mark and leave to work for 8 - 10 hours. Then simply brush off and rinse with clean water.

### Spots of tree resin

For stains caused by tree resin, clean using a cloth moistened with Ethyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol). Do not apply ethyl directly as it can stain the deck. Rinse with clean water once the mark has been removed.



# Frequently Asked Questions

---

## **What is DesignBoard manufactured from?**

50% PVC and 50% natural fibers the majority of which are rice husks. Rice husks are low in porosity and therefore degrade much slower when compared to timber. Rice husks are also a bi-product of grain manufacturing and would otherwise be incinerated.

## **How long will it last? Does it fade?**

As long as it is installed correctly you should expect a lifespan of over 25 years. DesignBoard fades at an average of 1% per year, so, after 25 – 30 years you may start to see the effects of this. This is normal. However, it is worth noting that it will be more apparent on the darker colours such as Charcoal and to a lesser extent, on Silver.

## **Is every piece the same or is there a range of pattern variations?**

The base colour of the material is the same but there is a range of different patterns to provide variation to the surface finish.

## **Does DesignBoard come with a guarantee?**

Yes, we offer a 10-year guarantee against structure and surface finish of the material.

## **Can DesignBoard be used to build furniture? e.g. a bench, bin store etc.**

DesignBoard Cladding can be used in many ways provided it has the benefit of support every 600mm and the 5mm gap between boards (as set out in the installation guide) is adhered to. Ideally, you would still use the clip system, but the boards can be screwed from the underside if necessary. We would not advise using it as either a countertop or in the construction of any furniture which is likely to have a burner installed.

## **What is the fire rating for DesignBoard Cladding?**

Euro class B-S3, d0 – This equates to British Standard Class 0; This is the highest possible rating for its class, the only materials higher would be Non-combustible materials such as stone.

# Technical Information

Options Available		Size Available
Cladding		3000 x 150 x 15mm
Dimensions		Tolerance
Weight	1,600 g/mL	± 65 g/m
Length	3000mm	± 10mm
Width	150mm	± 0.5mm
Thickness	15mm	± 0.5mm
Technical Test		According to the norm
Linear Extension Coefficient	UNE 53126	2,84 10 <sup>-5</sup>
Elasticity Modulus	UNE-EN ISO 178	4675 Mpa
Bending Strength	UNE-EN ISO 178	29.4 Mpa
Deflection at Maximum Force	UNE-EN ISO 178	2.9mm
Shore Hardness	UNE-EN ISO 868	65
Water Absorption (24 hours in water at 23°C)	UNE-EN ISO 62	0.99%
Water Absorption (7 days in water at 23°C)	UNE-EN ISO 62	3.78%
Vicat Softening Point	UNE-EN ISO 306	87.4%
Density	UNE-EN ISO 1183-1	1.54 g/cm <sup>3</sup>
Impact Resistance	UNE-EN ISO 477	> 5J
Reaction to Fire	UNE-EN 13501-1 :2007	B-s3, d0
Determination of the temperature of deflection under load	ISO 75-2 :2005	80.3 ± 0.7°C

